

## RESEARCH OUTPUTS / RÉSULTATS DE RECHERCHE

### Repetitions of signs according to language background

Notarrigo, Ingrid; Meurant, Laurence; Simon, Anne Catherine

*Publication date:*  
2016

*Document Version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication](#)

*Citation for pulished version (HARVARD):*

Notarrigo, I, Meurant, L & Simon, AC 2016, 'Repetitions of signs according to language background: A comparative analysis between Native, Near-Native and Late Signers', TISLR 12 - 12th International Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research, Melbourne, Australia, 4/01/16 - 7/01/16.

#### General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal ?

#### Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

**Repetition of signs according to language background  
in French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB)  
A comparative analysis between Native, Near-Native and Late Signers**

Ingrid Notarrigo

[ingrid.notarrigo@unamur.be](mailto:ingrid.notarrigo@unamur.be)

Laurence Meurant

[laurence.meurant@unamur.be](mailto:laurence.meurant@unamur.be)

Anne Catherine Simon

[anne-catherine.simon@uclouvain.be](mailto:anne-catherine.simon@uclouvain.be)

This study aims to compare the repetition of signs in deaf Native (N), Near-Native (NN) and Late (L) signers of French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB). The corpus consists of semi-interactive excerpts (2min/signer, 3,462 signs (glosses) and 950 occurrences of repetitions) of 12 signers aged around 34 (4 N, 4 NN and 4 L) from unprepared speech between two deaf participants (Meurant 2015). The criteria used to classify the signers into the three groups are the parents' status (deaf/hearing), the age of LSFB acquisition and the type of education. The goal of this study is to investigate the commonly held belief that N are more fluent than NN or L. In our view, (dis)fluency results from the combination of many independent markers (so-called "fluencemes": e.g. pauses, truncations, palm-ups) which may contribute either positively or negatively to the fluency of a discourse, depending on their context of occurrence (Götz 2013). Following Tannen (2007), we understand repetition as an "interpersonal involvement strategy" working at different levels (production, comprehension, connection, interaction), and depending on cultural fluency and individual style. We thus consider repetitions as constituting one class of fluencemes, and in this paper we examine the influence of signer profiles on their (1) frequency, (2) form, (3) combination with other fluencemes, and (4) function.

We built an annotation protocol to study the use of repetition from more local instances (at sign level) to broader ones (at discourse level) (Notarrigo et al. 2016), including annotations for forms (RC: contiguous, RN: non-contiguous, RNf: framing), functions within domains (G: grammatical, S: semantic, P: pragmatic), and parts of speech. A number of other fluencemes were also annotated in ELAN (Crible, Grosman, Dumont & Notarrigo 2015). Then, the data was statistically analysed (Student T test, correlation).

Our results suggest that N, NN and L display broadly similar cultural fluency with individual variations. They present the same general patterns in their use of repetition in terms of type of signs affected by the repetition, frequency (ratio of non-repeated/repeated signs) and functions (ratio of G/S/P domains and shared functions within these domains). Nevertheless, there are some specific group characteristics. N are significantly faster than NN and L (Notarrigo and Meurant 2015) without any correlation with repetition. There is a slight tendency for N to produce more repetitions made of several different signs. Some NN and L present a different profile from N for the form of repetition (ratio of RC/RN/RNf). Within the G domain, the ratio of RNf decreases progressively between N, NN and L while the ratio of RC increases. Besides, no correlations were found between the use of repetition and the use of other fluencemes, except for (1) a positive correlation between truncations and RNf and (2) a negative correlation between palm-ups and the ratio of repeated signs. Even if N produce fewer repetitions surrounded by other fluencemes, the three groups produce the same amount of repetitions for word search purpose or to repair an hesitation (maximum frequency: 2/min).

## References:

Crible L., Dumont A., Grosman I., Notarrigo I. (2015). Annotation des marqueurs de fluence et de disfluence dans des corpus multilingues et multimodaux, natifs et non natifs. Version 1.0, Working paper, Université catholique de Louvain et Université de Namur.

Degand et al. (forthcoming). Fluency and disfluency markers. A multimodal contrastive perspective. ARC: 12/17-044, University of Louvain-La-Neuve: Belgium, [www.uclouvain.be](http://www.uclouvain.be)

Meurant L. (Dec. 2015). Corpus LSFB. A digital open access corpus of movies and annotations in French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB). Laboratoire de Langue des signes de Belgique francophone (LSFB-Lab), FRS-F.N.R.S et Université de Namur, [www.corpus-lsfb.be](http://www.corpus-lsfb.be)

Notarrigo I. and Meurant L. (2015). Fluencemes across signer profiles. Poster presented at the 2nd International Conference on Sign Language Acquisition (ICSLA), 1-3 July 2015, Amsterdam: Netherlands.

Notarrigo I., Meurant L., Van Herreweghe M., Vermeerbergen M. (2016). Repetition of signs in French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB) and in Flemish Sign Language (VGT). Typology and Annotation protocol. Poster presented at the TISLR12, 04-08 January 2016, Melbourne: Australia.

Tannen D. (2007). Talking voices. Repetition, Dialogue, and Imagery in Conversational Discourse. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press.